

## **RACC Meeting Minutes No. 148 (5/4/05)**

1. **Purpose:** A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 3246 on Wednesday, May 4, 2005, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.
2. **Regions In Attendance:** The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH:** Neal DiPasquale; **SRH:** Eric Howieson; **WRH:** Dwight Williams, Sean Wink, Carl Gorski, Craig Schmidt ; **CRH:** Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH:** Phil Mieczynski; **PRH:** Bill Ward; **NGIT:** Bruno Vercillo; **FSL:** Rich Jesuroga; **NWSTC:** Randy Schupbach, Dave Cokely; **Warning Decision Training Branch:** Tim Decker,
3. **Discussion Items:** The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
  - a. **Status of OB5 and Performance Issues:** Last Friday, WFO JAN experienced severe weather. Carl Bullock and Darien Davis from FSL were on site to observe the severe weather. The JAN Performance Tiger Team at WSH had certain tools to collect information on it and they are currently analyzing it. A series of changes were made to the site before this episode. A slowdown was noted in WarnGen during this episode. We may have the solution to the centroid issue of the new CWA Local Warning Display as the default, rather than the previous legacy Regional Local Warnings Display. We are also looking at the slowdowns of creating text and sending text functions. Part of the issue is dealing with DS1 performance but there may be other causes. We did some testing on the NMTW system yesterday and will do more the rest of this week making some more WarnGen/TextDB software changes.

Concerning scheduling OB5, the earliest that we expect to field OB5 is June 2. This will have an impact of the remaining schedules. We will place an updated delta version of OB5 at SGF and EAX later next week since these sites are expecting some severe weather. We plan on testing OB5.1 (Red Hat conversion) on a WSH RFC system.

Concerning OB4.1b, the solutions to issues that are included in OB4.2 and OB5 that 4.1 sites might like to have during their severe weather season will be included in this maintenance release. A decision was made to place 9 patches into this release. So far, PBP, PBZ, and GID will be beta test candidates and we would like to widen the participation to 6-7 sites total. We would like to find at least one 4.1 site that has the DX but won't be installing OB4.2 anytime soon and any 4.1 site that doesn't have the DX yet.

- b. **MDL After hours Support:** MDL supports field sites during normal business hours (9-5 EDT) only. There is an after hours second tier of support for IFPS whereby if the NCF cannot handle an issue, they contact the MDL cell phone and can leave a voice mail message if the call isn't answered. If it is a critical problem and nobody is around to assist them, a site can go into service backup. The MDL supports other software during business hours only: WWA, Hourly Weather Roundup, Climate, Local Storm Report, SCAN, FFMP, AVNFPS, and SAFESEAS. The regions were concerned about the lack of after hours support for WWA. Stephan Smith of MDL stated that during the VTEC and WBC OT&E last year, it was determined that it wasn't

cost effective to maintain after hours active support for WWA. The focal points continued to dispute this and Art Thomas suggested the regional MSD chiefs bring this requirement up at the next joint services call and nobody objected to this suggestion.

c. Focal Point/Participants Reports, Problems and Concerns:

Alaska Region: Today, the Anchorage RFC is installing their DX/NAS hardware. They will be installing the software portion of the DX/NAS next week. The WFO at Anchorage will be soon installing the delta version of OB5. Our forecasters will be gearing up for an early fire weather season as it has already begun.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: We had some recent problems with IFPS service backup at 7 of our sites. Either the sites had to go into it or just tested the IFPS service backup, but all sites failed due to a multitude of problems. These problems required MDL support to get the sites back-up and running. We recommend that all the other regions require their sites to test their IFPS service backup as a precaution. Bill Gery asked that Neal share any useful information (such as why they failed) with the other regions on this matter.

Pacific Region: Our DX/NAS rack equipment has shown up at PBP and HFO. This same hardware will be arriving at GUM next week.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: How is the data performance collected since we would like to be proactive about sites having problems and investigate further? The group referred Sean Wink to contact Bob Morris who collects this data.

FSL: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

NGIT: nothing significant to report.

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2005. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.**